

grants and through the Local Action Strategies. The bill supports the continued use of these successful conservation management tools. To be successful in the long-term it is imperative to have the local and regional entities involved in the conservation of coral reef resources from the start.

This legislation also recognizes the important role the Department of the Interior has played in coral reef conservation and would authorize much needed funding for their activities. This bill, however, does not change the fundamental jurisdictions and roles of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce, but recognizes that the Department of the Interior has a role in this endeavor. In addition the bill continues to support and recognize the accomplishments and conservation efforts of the Department of Commerce. Both agencies have participated in coral reef conservation activities and this bill encourages their continued cooperation and coordination.

While the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 has been very successful in restoring and protecting coral reefs, it has had limitations in its grant program. The Coral Reef Conservation Legacy Act would allow for multi-year cooperative agreements between the Federal Government and other agencies, states, territories, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations. This multi-year authority will allow more stability in funding for important projects that might now be finalized in or limited to one year.

This legislation also codifies the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. The Task Force has been an important voice for coral reef activities and has coordinated the activities in support of coral reef conservation. This codification recognizes the important work of the Task Force and the indispensable role they have played in the conservation of coral reefs.

The Coral Reef Conservation Legacy Act will continue the ongoing efforts to protect and restore coral reefs. I look forward to working with my colleagues as this bill moves through the legislative process.

#### STATEMENT HONORING ROGER ANDAL

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of Roger Andal, Vietnam veteran and former South Dakota Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, who died on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at the age of 57 from complications after surgery in his battle against Crohn's disease.

I am deeply saddened by the news that my good friend Roger Andal has passed away. Roger lived a life of service to his fellow Americans. He was drafted in July 1969 and was sent to Vietnam that December where he served as a platoon medic with the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Roger served the next five months in the jungle around Pleiku in the central highlands of Vietnam before being hit with shrapnel from a rocket propelled grenade. He spent the following five months in military hospitals before being honorably discharged on April 13, 1971.

Following his tour of duty in Vietnam, Roger became one of the most tenacious and most effective advocates for veterans that South Dakota, or the nation, has ever seen. Roger's cause was righteous and his will was unyielding. But even in those tough and passionate battles on issues he cared about, he also brought a caring spirit, a hearty laugh, and a ready hug that touched all who knew him. Roger relished a good battle, but he was as kindhearted as he was dogged in his pursuit of ensuring that the federal government keep its promises to our nation's veterans. As State Commander of the South Dakota Disabled American Veterans, he was a true leader, who fought the tough fights and led by example. He quietly suffered the effects of his own injuries while working so hard to ease the pain of others, including the physical and mental pain experienced by his fellow combat veterans years after their service to the country.

Today, we remember and honor the noble service and the undeterred commitment of Roger Andal to the United States of America. I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to his family. Roger's commitment to and sacrifice for our nation will never be forgotten. The lives of countless veterans and their families, including my own, were touched and helped by Roger's work, and we all have a heavy burden to carry in his absence. My thoughts and prayers are with Roger's wife Peggy, his children and all his family in this time of sorrow and I look forward to continuing to fight for those things Roger cared about so deeply.

#### COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I also want to add that Mr. MCCRERY wanted to cosponsor H.R. 5252, but was unable to do so because the bill already had been reported by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. I certainly appreciate his interest in cosponsoring the bill nonetheless.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICK JENNINGS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick Jennings, who has diligently served the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, of which I am the Chairman, for the past several months.

Prior to Patrick beginning his service with the Subcommittee, he served as the retire-

ment policy expert on law enforcement and firefighter issues for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). In this role, he took the lead for retirement-related input to the Congressionally-mandated OPM report entitled Federal Law Enforcement Pay and Benefits (July 2004). Patrick served as primary expert for advising the Center for Retirement and Insurance Services on competing survivor claims, state laws on inheritance and marriage, and foreign marriages. He also acted as agency representative in administrative litigation before the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, thereby promoting OPM's position in a variety of retirement areas.

Patrick began his service with the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization in January 2005, as a detailee from the OPM. Over the course of the past year and a half, Patrick has proven himself time and again as a man of exemplary professionalism. As Senior Counsel, Patrick's service was of an extraordinary caliber, where he made recommendations on a variety of issues and legislation before the Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Patrick Jennings. The dedication he has shown to the work of the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization is greatly appreciated, and he will be surely missed. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF WYNNE ANTONIO

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mrs. Wynne Antonio, upon her retirement after 35 years of dedicated service in the Cleveland Municipal School District.

For 35 years, Mrs. Wynne Antonio has loved, nurtured and taught Cleveland's school children with all her heart. She has worked collaboratively with parents to involve them in both decision-making as well as supportive roles. Mrs. Antonio went beyond the call of duty to expose her students to the arts, culture and government of Ohio to prove that a child's education goes beyond the classroom.

In addition to her dedication to her students, Mrs. Antonio has been an active leader in the Cleveland Teachers Union as a building chair, a member of many internal committees, and the chair of Community Relations for the Cleveland Teachers Union Executive Board. On a political level, Mrs. Antonio has been active in local, state and national political campaigns. It is also not uncommon to find this distinguished educator at street rallies for peace, human rights and economic justice. Just this past spring, my office had the privilege of giving her and the students of Carl F. Shuler Middle School a tour of the Capitol building during their visit to Washington DC.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of Mrs. Wynne Antonio for commitment to education in Northeast Ohio. Mrs. Antonio's dedication to her work serves as a model to her colleagues and an inspiration to us all. I wish Mrs. Antonio many blessed years of happiness and am sure that while her professional career has